

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09024 151623Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCCT-01 SAM-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 USSS-00 SY-05

CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /056 W
----- 061906

R 151528Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5339

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, PLO, XF

SUBJ: ALLON ON MORGAN, PLO, AND TERRORISM

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 4458 (NOTAL); (B) BEIRUT 8793;

(C) BEIRUT 8494 (NOTAL)

1. WE FIND FONMIN ALLON'S JULY 10 DISQUISITION ON MORGAN CASE INTERESTING, IF SELF-SERVING, PRESENTATION OF ISRAELI VIEWPOINT. WE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED, HOWEVER, AS TO WHY, ASSUMING GOI KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS IN CASE OF ABDUCTED AMERICAN OFFICER WAS AS GOOD AS ALLON ASSERTS, GOI CHOSE TO REVEAL ITS HARD INTELLIGENCE IN HIGHLY CRYPTIC FORM DURING MEETING WITH VISITING CODEL.

2. AS TO FACTS OF CASE, WE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE RESULTS OF FULL DEBRIEFING OF COL MORGAN AND PREFER AWAIT FINDINGS BEFORE MAKING DEFINITIVE STATEMENT. ON BASIS WHAT WE KNOW NOW, ACTUAL DETENTION WAS CARRIED OUT BY ELEMENTS OF PFLP-GC, PROBABLY IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER LEBANESE AND /OR PALES-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09024 151623Z

TINIAN GROUPS OF SOME STRIPE. AS DEPT. AWARE FROM REFTTEL C, WE

HAVE SUSPECTED PFLP INVOLVEMENT FROM OUTSET OF CASE. PENDING FULL REVIEW OF MORGAN DEBRIEFING, WE CONTINUE SUSPECT AT MINIMUM PFLP KNOWLEDGE OF ABDUCTION AT TIME OF ABDUCTION OR ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ACT. PFLP CERTAINLY RALLIED TO PFLP-GC DEFENSE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF PLO COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 9 (REFTEL B). ABU AL ABD OF PFLP PUBLICLY JOINED ABU AL ABBAS OF PFLP-GC IN "REJECTIONIST" PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 10 IN SHOW OF UNITY IN DEFIANCE OF "ARAFAT AND PLO "MODERATES." WE, THEREFORE, CONTINUE SUSPECT PFLP COMPLICITY IN CASE. LIKEWISE, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE, AS ALLON SUGGESTS, THAT ONE OR MORE UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH PFLP DID IN FACT PLAY ROLE IN ARRANGING DETAILS OF MORGAN'S RELEASE, ONCE "REJECTIONIST" DECISION TO DO SO HAD BEEN TAKEN. OUR DIFFICULTY, THEREFORE, DOES NOT RPT NOT LAY IN IMPUTATION TO PFLP OF INVOLVEMENT.

3. ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME REFUTES ALLON'S DESCRIPTION OF 'ARAFAT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HABASH, AND WE CONTENT TO REST OUR CASE ON BASIS OF ANALYSIS CONTAINED REFTEL B. PENDING EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY, WHICH ALLON APPARENTLY DID NOT RPT NOT ADDUCE, WE BELIEVE THAT CONFRONTATION, WHICH INVOLVES ISSUES AND RIVALRIES OF LONG DURATION AS GOI WELL AWARE, BETWEEN 'ARAFAT AND PLO "MODERATES" AND TRUCULENT "REJECTIONISTS" WAS AND REMAINS GENUINE AND SERIOUS. FURTHERMORE, ON BASIS OF DATA RECEIVED SINCE TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL B, WE EVEN MORE CONVINCED THAT PLO COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 9 WAS REASONABLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MORGAN CASE TO THAT TIME. WE SEE NO BASIS, ASIDE FROM ALLON'S UNSUBSTANTIATED ASSERTION TO CONTRARY, FOR CONCLUDING THAT 'ARAFAT WAS ENGAGING IN ELABORATE CHARADE. AS WE SUGGESTED IN REFTEL B, 'ARAFAT HAS SHOWN CONSISTENT RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ON "REJECTIONISTS" MILITARILY UNTIL HE HAS WHAT HE CONSIDERS SOUND REASON FOR SO DOING. MORGAN ABDUCTION PROBABLY WAS NOT RPT NOT ISSUE ON WHICH HE WOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO DRAW LINE; HIS PUBLIC SOLICITUDE IN THIS CASE INVOLVING AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER WAS NOT CALCULATED TO WIN HIM GREAT POPULARITY AMONG RANK AND FILE PALESTINIANS WHO NOT PARTICULARLY SOPHISTICATED AND PROBABLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN FOR LIFE OF SINGLE US "IMPERIALIST" AT TIME WHEN PALESTINIANS SUFFERING CASUALTIES FROM ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS AND ENDURING WHAT THEY RE-

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 09024 151623Z

GARD AS UNTOLD HARDSHIPS AT HANDS OF ISRAELI "OCCUPIERS" ARMED WITH US WEAPONRY. IN SHORT, WE CANNOT RPT CANNOT CREDIT 'ARAFAT WITH ASSUMING POSITION HE TOOK TO ENHANCE HIS POSITION AMONG PALESTINIANS UNLESS HE MORE STUPID THAN WE BELIEVE OR HE HAS THUS FAR SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE. WE THINK, RATHER, THAT HE HAD MORE LONG-RANGE INTERESTS OF PLO(AND HIMSELF, OF COURSE) IN MIND, INCLUDING POSSIBLE FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS. ANY PROGRESS IN THIS

DIRECTION WOULD, NATURALLY, BE SOURCE OF CONCERN AND DISQUIET TO ALLON AND GOI.

4. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY ALLON'S IMPLIED MESSAGE THAT MORGAN ABDUCTION WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE. ALTHOUGH WE UNABLE EXCLUDE THIS POSSIBILITY PENDING FULL DEBRIEFING OF VICTIM, WE KNOW OF NO RPT NO COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT MORGAN'S CAPTURE WAS PLANNED. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE INTERESTED IN ANY HARD DATA ON THIS POINT IN GOI POSSESSION. EVEN ASSUMING, FOR MOMENT, TRAP LAID FOR MORGAN, PLOTTERS WOULD HAVE HAD LIMITED TIME (BEGINNING FROM TIME MORGAN DECIDED TO MAKE UNPREDICTABLE TRIP TO AIRPORT TO BUY READING MATERIAL) IN WHICH TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. ONLY BY ATTRIBUTING ALMOST SUPERHUMAN OMNISCIENCE TO 'ARAFAT COULD ONE LOGICALLY ARGUE THAT HE WOULD HAVE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF EVENT IN CONFUSED SITUATION EXISTING LOCALLY ON JUNE 29.

5. WE MUST CONFESS DEGREE OF DEPRESSION AT ALLON'S EXPRESSED INABILITY TO DISCERN DIFFERENCES AMONGVARIOUS PALESTINIAN GROUPINGS AND APPARENT GLIBNESS WITH WHICH HE PASSED ON UNSUBSTANTIATED INFORMATION TO MEMBER OF U.S. CONGRESS. WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THAT, IN ISRAELI EYES, 'ARAFAT AND HABASH ARE BOTH GUILTY OF TERRORISM WITHIN ISRAELI-CONTROLLED TERRITORY. INDEED, FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE, GOI MAY WELL REGARD 'ARAFAT AS MORE DANGEROUS OF TWO SINCE FATAH PROBABLY POSSESSES SOMEWHAT GREATER CAPACITY FOR TERRORISM THAN HABASH. NEVERTHELESS, PROFESSED GOI INABILITY TO SEE ANY DIFFERENCE IN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES REPRESENTED BY THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS CALLS INTO QUESTION WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED EXCELLENT ISRAELI TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY RE THIS QUESTION.

6. WE SUGGEST, IN VIEW OF ALLON'S CLAIM TO ACCURATE INFORMATION RE MORGAN CASE AT TIME WHEN VICTIM WAS STILL IN ABDUCTORS' CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 09024 151623Z

HANDS, WE SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST WHATEVER SPECIFIC INFORMATION GOI MIGHT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE IN INTEREST OF THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRISONERS RELEASE, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT09024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750244-0628
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750753/aaaabuw1.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 8494, 75 TEL AVIV 4458, 75 BEIRUT 8793
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLON ON MORGAN, PLO, AND TERRORISM
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS, XF, PLO, (MORGAN, ERNEST R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006